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WE ARE THE TRUSTEES

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AUG 07 1992
1992 Annual Report

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I C T A
Illinois Community
College Trustees
Association

WE ARE THE TRUSTEES . . .

Founded in 1970, the Illinois Community College Trustees Association provides trustee education, legislative advocacy and statewide public relations for all 50 public community colleges in Illinois.

Trustee Education

In 1991-92, ICCTA offered seminars on:

- Skills for new trustees
- Developing alternative revenue sources
- Legal responsibilities of boards
- Dealing with cultural diversity
- Board teamwork
- Trustee ethics
- Board-president relations

ICCTA assisted boards about to hire new presidents and advised trustees on issues from board agenda-setting to guaranteeing the quality of instruction.

The annual ICCTA convention covered:

- Pricing customized workforce training
- Financial reports for trustees
- Tuition rate issues
- Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act
- Criticisms of college financial practices
- How to pass a referendum
- Trends in college foundations
- Turning points in ICCTA history

To recognize and encourage outstanding trusteeship, ICCTA inaugurated the Trustee Education Award and the Ray Hartstein Trustee Achievement Award.

Legislative Advocacy

Climaxing with a May 13 Lobby Day that drew over 100 people and included a discussion with Gov. Jim Edgar, ICCTA opposed bills that would have limited colleges' use of part-time teachers and unilaterally transferred local powers to the Illinois Community College Board. ICCTA also sponsored legislation to raise the minimum bidding threshold to \$10,000.

ICCTA defended community colleges before the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education Governance, and was instrumental in averting inequitable reductions in community college students' Monetary Award Program grants. The Association also persuaded the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to create a new category of funding claims by non-resident Illinois Veterans Grant students, and lobbied effectively for the reappointment of a key member of the ISAC board.

The ICCTA joined the ICCB in its effort to initiate the welfare-to-jobs Project Opportunities and to obtain governance of adult education. Unfortunately, the transfer of adult education governance was not successful.

Working with the Association of Community College Trustees, ICCTA persuaded Congress to reject calls that would have reduced community college students' Pell Grants. With ACCT, ICCTA lobbied against Private Industry Councils' key role in the Bush administration's Job Training 2000 project. ICCTA also helped to launch the Community College Government Relations Network, a national advocacy group, and became the first state association to suggest a new legislative policy to ACCT under its new guidelines.

Throughout the spring session, the Trustees Association provided timely legislative reports and alerts to presidents and ICCTA representatives. In addition, all trustees received ICCTA's annual record of key legislation in the General Assembly. To strengthen a cadre of effective advocates, ICCTA continues to train select college administrators in lobbying skills and government relations.

Before the courts, ICCTA filed an amicus curiae brief in *Central City* and a motion in *Elgin IFT v. Elgin Community College District #509*. Both actions protected management rights in collective bargaining.

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Systemwide Public Relations

ICCTA responds every day to requests for information on trusteeship and Illinois community colleges. Questions come from school administrators, the media, attorneys, other state associations, and members of the General Assembly or their staff.

The Association obtained Gov. Edgar's proclamation of April as Illinois Community College Month. (ACCT and the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges have now followed Illinois' lead in observing April as Community College Month.) ICCTA's Public Relations Committee planned a very successful Community College Day at Wrigley Field, and worked with college PR directors to develop a new logo and slogan -- *Where Learning Never Ends™* -- as the first step of a proposed five-year, systemwide marketing campaign.

Dr. Gary Davis, ICCTA's executive director, spoke throughout the state to audiences at commencements, convocations and conventions, explaining the link between community colleges and Illinois' economic recovery. In 1991-92, he appeared on the program at every major national convention -- ACCT's and AACJC's annual conferences, ACCT's Federal Update, and ACCT/AACJC's joint Legislative Seminar -- consistently receiving highest evaluations.

ICCTA publications now appear in the ERIC national data base.

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Strengthening the System

Vitally committed to unity, growth and strength of the Illinois community college system, ICCTA links presidents and trustees through a series of regular faxes and mailings, an annual meeting of presidents' secretaries, seven trustees meetings, and the *Illinois Trustee* magazine.

Through its support of the Charles Kennedy memorial and a seminar on diversity, ICCTA encouraged colleges to redouble their commitment to the needs of minority students.

The Association also continues to train Illinois trustees to serve as board consultants through the ICCTA College of Board Mentors program.

For additional information about the Illinois Community College Trustees Association or its activities, please contact:

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